

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

The purification system may be formed of one or more purifiers in series. The purifiers can be, for example, of the kind comprising getter alloys, generally based on zirconium or titanium, kept at temperatures comprised between about 250 and 500 °C. Purifiers which employ getter alloys are the object of various patent publications including, for example, U.S. Patents 4,942,019; 5,080,875; 5,182,089; 5,238,469; 5,492,682; 5,556,603; 5,558,844; 5,968,468; and ~~6,086,685~~ 6,068,685 and European Patents EP-B-0 470 936; EP-B-0 484 301 and EP-B-0 493 347. Alternatively, purifiers working at ambient temperature can be used, such as the purifiers based on nickel generally dispersed on highly porous supports, such as zeolites or alumina, which are able to sorb a wide range of gases, in particular water, oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen. The purifiers based on nickel are preferably used in combination with catalytic materials for the conversion of some gases in species which can be more easily sorbed. For example, it is possible to use a bed of palladium oxide kept at a temperature comprised between about 200 and 400 °C, which is able to convert methane into carbon dioxide and water, which are then sorbed by the supported nickel metal. It is then possible to use purifiers specific for some kind of gases, for example the purifier for removing oxygenated species from ammonia described in U.S. Patent 5,716,588, or the purifier selective for water described in European published patent application EP-A-0 960 647. These specific purifiers are generally employed in combination with a purifier which is able to remove several gases of the previously described types. Finally, the purifiers described up to now may be used in combination with purifiers comprising other materials capable of physically sorbing gases at room temperature, for example molecular sieves, which can remove part of the water or some hydrocarbons, thus prolonging the life of the principal purifier.